

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2608  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2003  
TASK FORCE FOR SUGAR INDUSTRY  
KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY;PRAKASH V. PATIL

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a high power task force has been constituted to go into the problems of sugar industry;
- (b) whether the sugar industry has requested tax holiday for five years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken for the revival of the sugar industry?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION ( SREENIVASA PRASAD )

(a): It was, inter-alia, indicated in the Budget Speech, 2003-2004 that the Ministries of Food and Finance would jointly address the problems of the Sugar Industry. Accordingly, an Inter-ministerial Group has been constituted for the purpose.

(b)&(c): The Sugar Industry's Associations had requested for certain tax concession like Reduction of Excise Duty on molasses and concessional Import Duty on equipment for cogeneration of power etc.

(d): In recent months, the Central Government initiated several steps to assist the sugar industry including creation of Buffer Stocks of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar (in December, 2002) for a period of one year, reimbursement of internal transport charges and neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage on exports of sugar.